

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ACCRA 07033 181354Z

46

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FBIE-00 L-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CPR-01

JUSE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 RSC-01 EB-07 COME-00 SY-04

PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 (ISO) W

----- 103586

R 181014Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5851

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL ZURICH

CONFIDENTIAL ACCRA 7033

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN PFOR GH

SUBJ: JOHN ACKAH BLAY-MIEZAH: LATEST IN PRESS AND RUMOR

REF: (A) ACCRA 6795; (B) ACCRA 7030 (NOTAL); (C) ACCRA 7031 (NOTAL)

(D) MCGUIRE/HANSON LETTER OCT. 18 (NOTAL); (E) STATE 271110

1. PRESS IN LAST FEW DAYS HAS CARRIED SEVERAL ITEMS ON
BLAY-MIEZAH WHICH FOLLOW UP ON THOSE REPORTED IN REF A. (REFS
B AND C DEAL WITH COMMERCIAL ASPECTS OF ISSUE.)

2. WEEKLY ECHO, DATED DECEMBER 15, PUBLISHED ITEMS "CULLED FROM
PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER" WHICH REPORT INDICTMENT OF BLAY-MIEZAH
AND GERALD H. SMITH. EDITOR KISSI-AFARE HAD SEEN ITEMS WHEN IN
US AND RECALLED THEM WHEN NEWS BROKE HERE OF BLAY-MIEZAH'S "CHARI-
TIES." HE ASKED ASSISTANCE OF USIS IN OBTAINING COPIES OF ITEMS
AND RIGHT TO REPRINT. HOWEVER, STORY BROKE HERE WITH SUCH SPEED
HE DECIDED TO ACT IMMEDIATELY AND USED EXTRACTS FROM CLIPPINGS
HE ALREADY HAD IN HAND.

3. GHANAIAN TIMES DECEMBER 14 CARRIED LONG AND RATHER DISJOINED EDITORIAL ENTITLED "COME OUT OF YOUR SHELL, DOCTOR MIEZAH."

TIMES OBVIOUSLY HAD ACCESS TO SAME CLIPPINGS AS ECHO AND STATES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ACCRA 07033 181354Z

THAT THE CLIPPINGS "HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING FREELY IN GHANA BY UN-

KNOWN SOURCES". IT SAYS THE CLIPPINGS GIVE "GENUINE CAUSE FOR MISGIVINGS...WE HOLD NO BRIEF FOR DR. MIEZAH BUT SIGHT SHOULD NOT BE LOST OF THE FACT THAT TO TAKE 160 MILLION DOLLARS OUT OF THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT STRINGS ATTACHED IS SOMETHING WHICH CANNOT PLEASE EVERY AMERICAN...THIS MAY ACCOUNT FOR THE SMEAR CAMPAIGN." NONETHELESS, EDITORIAL STATES THAT BLAY-MIEZAH SHOULD "PLAY HIS CARDS FACE UP," DISCARD THE "MANTLE OF SECRECY WHICH VEILS THE SOURCE OF THE MONEY" AND PROVE THE ALLEGATIONS TRUE OR FALSE. TIMES ALSO NOTES HE HAS "DONE NOTHING SUSPICIOUS IN GHANA" AND HAS ASSOCIATED WITH HIM "KWAKU BOATENG, A CRACK POLITICIAN AND LAWYER" AND "KWASI AMOAKO-ATTA, AN ADROIT BANKER" AMONG OTHERS. (FYI: BOATENG IS FORMER NKRUMAH MINISTER; AMOAKA-ATTA IS ALSO ONETIME NKRUMAH MINISTER AND EX-DEPUTY GOVERNOR BANK OF GHANA, AND IS CURRENTLY ADVISOR IN CASTLE ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.)

4. TIMES DECEMBER 17 FRONTPAGED STORY "MIEZAH REVEALS SOURCE OF FUNDS" AND GIVES STORY OF WILL MADE BY LAYMAN BEQUEATHING 86 (SIC) MILLION TO BLAY-MIEZAH. IT SAYS FUND WAS RELEASED ON NOVEMBER 19, 1974, AND IMPLIES (BUT DOES NOT CLEARLY STATE) THAT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH GEOFFREY'S BANK. BANK IS IDENTIFIED AS BEING IN US RATHER THAN IN BRUSSELS. IT ALSO NOTES RECENT VISIT OF COPPOLINO "TO DISCUSS THE LEGACY WITH THE OMAN GHANA TRUST." ESSENTIALLY SAME STORY CARRIED DAILY GRAPHIC DECEMBER 18. (WE HAVE LEARNED COPPOLINO WAS IN ACCRA AND DEPARTED DECEMBER 13. DEPARTMENT OR FBI MAY WISH CONSIDER CONTACTING COPPOLINO FOR INFORMATION ON HIS VISIT HERE, SINCE PER REF D, FBI UNDERSTANDS BLAY-MIEZAH "OWES COPPOLINO AND FRIENDS SOMETHING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$100,000.")

5. MEANWHILE WE HAVE A REPORT THAT GOG IS PREPARED TO ARREST BLAY-MIEZAH FOR FRAUD. CHARGES MAY RESULT FROM REPORTED BORROWINGS BY BLAY-MIEZAH ON STRENGTH OF HIS "INHERITANCE" AND APPROACHING DATE OF REPAYMENT TO LENDERS.

6. COMMENTS: THERE MAY BE A TUG OF WAR WITHIN THE CASTLE ON BLAY-MIEZAH MATTER. ON THE ONE HAND, IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT SECRETARY TO THE NRC E.M. DEBRAH WOULD PREFER THAT MATTER BURST INTO OPEN. HE SAID TO DCM RECENTLY THAT HE AND OTHER GOG OFFICIALS "WANT THIS CASE TO RAISE SUCH A STINK THAT YOU CAN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ACCRA 07033 181354Z

SMELL IT FROM LONDON TO ZAIRE." DEBRAH MAY WISH TO BLOW WHISTLE ON BLAY-MIEZAH IN A MANNER WHICH WILL IMPLICATE BOATENG, AMOAKA-ATTA AND SEVERAL OTHER LESSER LIGHTS WHO ARE VIEWED BY DEBRAH AS NUISANCES TO HIM AND MOST OF NRC. ON THE OTHER HAND, ACHEAMPONG APPARENTLY STILL BELIEVES BLAY-MIEZAH HAS CLAIM TO MONEY AND IS RELUCTANT EITHER TO PERMIT ACTION AGAINST HIM OR TO ADMIT HIS OWN ERROR IN ACCEPTING STORY. HINT OF POTENTIAL LINE BY THOSE FAVORING BLAY-MIEZAH TO BE USED IF HE IS FOUND TO BE WITHOUT

FUNDS COULD BE IN TIMES EDITORIAL SUGGESTING THAT US MIGHT NOT WANT MONEY TO BE TAKEN FROM US. IT WOULD THEN BE INCUMBENT ON DEBRAH AND THOSE AGREEING WITH HIM TO DOCUMENT BLAY-MIEZAH'S FALSIFICATION. WE HAVE PROVIDED AND ARE PROVIDING DEBRAH WITH MATERIAL USEFUL TO THIS END.

7. WE FEEL THAT CASE MAY ERUPT BY END OF MONTH, SINCE ONE OF BLAY-MIEZAH'S ASSOCIATES, A MRS. ELIZABETH NANA AKAYA ANKRAH, WHO LEFT ACCRA FOR BRUSSELS DECEMBER 13, TOLD THE BELGIAN CHARGE HERE THAT BLAY-MIEZAH HAS SEVERAL CHECKS, WHICH "MUST BE CASHED IN DECEMBER." MRS. ANKRAH DOUBTLESS HAD IN MIND CHECK FOR THIRTY MILLION DOLLARS DRAWN ON THE CHEMICAL BANK OF NEW YORK, WHICH PER REF E WAS DEPOSITED FOR COLLECTION WITH GEOFFREY'S BANK IN BRUSSELS. GEOFFREY'S HAS, OR WILL SOON HAVE, THE BAD NEWS RE THAT CHECK. HOWEVER, JUDGING FROM PAST PERFORMANCE, BLAY-MIEZAH IS ENTIRELY CAPABLE OF HAVING A CONFEDERATE (POSSIBLY MRS. ANKRAH) SEND HIM A FAKE CABLE CONFIRMING COLLECTION OF THE CHECK. THIS WOULD GIVE HIM A FEW ADDITIONAL DAYS' DELAY.

8. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE (FROM DEPARTMENT) ANY INFO DEVELOPED ON CHEMICAL BANK'S REPLY TO GEOFFREY'S AND (FROM BRUSSELS) ANY INFO ON GEOFFREY'S BANK'S REACTION. FYI: BELGIAN CHARGE ADVISES BLAY-MIEZAH COULD FACE SERIOUS CHARGES, SHOULD HE RE-ENTER BELGIAN JURISDICTION.

BLACK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLICATIONS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ACCRA07033
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740368-0497
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741227/aaaaawwe.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 ACCRA 6795, 74 ACCRA 7030, 74 (NOTA ACCRA 7031
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOHN ACKAH BLAY-MIEZAH: LATEST IN PRESS AND RUMOR
TAGS: BGEN, PFOR, GH, US, (BLAY-MIEZAH, JOHN ACKAH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005